Conversion of Agricultural Land for Non-agriculture use

862. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural/farm use has increased in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to issue guidelines to be followed by the State Governments to protect land for being diverted to non-farm use in the immediate future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the alternative measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (e) Conversion of agricultural land for non-farm use such as housing, industrial development, transport, defence purposes etc. is taking place due to growing population and diversification of economic activity. Government of India have been repeatedly impressing upon all the State and Union Territories to protect good agricultural land from being diverted for non-agricultural purposes. In this regard Government of India has also formulated a National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) and recommended to the States for implementation. The NLPO inter-alia envisages the restructuring of urban policy to ensure that highly productive land is not taken away.

Irrigation potential in Maharashtra

863. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the difference in average yield of irrigated land is higher by 70 to 120 per cent for various crops than that in unirrigated lands in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to increase the irrigation potential of the State to increase the yield of crops in the State:

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) A comparative statement giving average yields of important crops for irrigated and unirrigated lands in Maharashtra during 1994-95 (latest available) is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Irrigation projects for creation of irrigation potential are implemented by the State Governments from State funds and plan allocations so as to increase the yield of crops in the State. Due to the efforts taken in this regard the gross irrigated area in Maharashtra, which was 12.20 lakh hectares in 1960-61, increased to 32.62 lakh hectares in 1992-93 (latest available), as per the land use statistics.

Statement

A comparative statement giving average yields of important crops for irrigated and unirrigated lands in Maharashtra during 1994-95

Yield per hectare (in Kgs.)

	Crop	Irrigated	Unirrigated	% Difference in irrigated and Unirrigated
1.	Rice-Kharif	1416	1164	21.6
	(Summer)	1852	1587	16.7
2.	Jowar-Rabi	859	443	93.9
3.	Bajra	982	613	60.2
4.	Wheat	1696	717	136.5
5.	Gram	794	543	46.2
6.	Groundnut (Summer)	1676	—	—
7.	Soyabean	—	938	—
8.	Cotton (Kapas)	759	402	88.8
9.	Sugarcane	85527	—	—

पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र और राजस्थान में केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन का क्षेत्रीय प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र खोला जाना

864. **श्री शिव चरण सिंह:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कुछ संसद सदस्यों द्वारा सरकार का पत्र लिखकर पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र और राजस्थान में केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन के क्षेत्रीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यालय खोलने का अनुरोध किया गया है;